III. *Some farther Obſervations relating to the Antiquities and Natural Hiſtory of* Ireland. *In a Letter from the late Mr.* Edw. Lhwyd, *Keeper of the* Aſhmolean Muſeum *in* Oxford, *to Dr.* Tancred Robinſon, *F. R. S.*

Penſans, in *Cornwall*, Aug. 25. 1700.

Honoured Sir,

FOR Antiquities, *Ireland* affords no great variety; at leaſt it was not our fortune to be much diverted that way. I have in divers Parts of the Kingdom picked up about 20 or 30 *Iriſh* Manuſcripts on Parchment: But the Ignorance of their Criticks is ſuch, that tho' I conſulted the chiefeſt of them, as *O Flaherty* (Author of the *Ogygia*) and ſeveral others, they could ſcarce interpret one Page of all my Manuſcripts; and this is occaſioned by the want of a Dictionary, which it ſeems none of their Nation ever took the trouble to compoſe. I was informed (but how truly I know not) they have lately printed one at the *Iriſh* College in *Lovain*; which if I could procure, I ſhould not deſpair of being in a ſhort time able myſelf to underſtand theſe Manuſcripts; tho' many of them being but inſignificant Romances, it would ſcarce quit the Pains. What I moſt value amongſt them are their old Laws, which might give ſome Light to the Curious as to many of their National Cuſtoms; and ſome of their old Poems: But all are of uſe to any that would compoſe a Dictionary of their Language; which was anciently (conſidering the narrowneſs of their Knowledge as to Arts and Sciences) doubtleſs very copious.

It

I ſaw no Coins found there, but the *Roman* Gold Coin of *Valentinian jun.* formerly mentioned; ſeveral of our old *Engliſh* ſince the Conqueſt; and one caſt Braſs Piece inſcribed with *Runic* Letters, which I take to have been a *Daniſh* Amulet.

Several of our old *Britiſh* Monuments, called *Kaer*, *Karn*, *Cromleeh*, &c. we met with; and found that they diſtinguiſhed them by the ſame Names.

What were peculiar to themſelves, were their high round Towers for Belfreys; their round Entrenchments, commonly called *Danes* Rathes; and the Elf-Arrow Heads of Flint.

About *Slego* and *Bali Shany* we had good ſucceſs as to Figur'd Stones; where we met with variety of *Aſtropodia* and *Aſtrorrhizæ*, or *Modioli*, not yet figured or deſcribed, together with other Curioſities in that kind; all which (together with the Manuſcripts) I have long ſince ſent to *Oxford*.

In the ſame Neighbourhood, on the Mountains of *Ben Bulben* and *Ben Buiſhgen*, we met with a Number of the rare Mountain Plants of *England* and *Wales*, and three or four not yet diſcover'd in *Britain*. Mr. *Heaton*'s *Chamædrys Alpina* is a common Plant on thoſe Hills, as alſo on divers other Mountains and Heathy Grounds in *Connacht* and *Munſter*.

In the Iſle of *Aran* (near *Galloway*) we found great plenty of the *Adianthum verum*, and a ſort of matted Campion with a white Flower, which I bewail the Loſs of; for an imperfect Sprig of it was only brought me; and I waited afterwards in Rain almoſt a whole Week for fair Weather, to have gone in queſt of it.

In moſt of the Mountains of *Galloway* and *Mayo* grows an elegant ſort of Heath, bearing large Thyme-leaves, a Spike of fair purple Flowers like ſome *Campanula*, and viſcous Stalks. I know not whether it be any thing related to the *Ciſti Ladaniferæ*.

In

In the ſame Places *Pinguicula flore carneo minore* is a common Plant, and a ſort of *Ros Solis*, which I take to be undeſcribed.

Sedum ſerratum foliis pediculis oblongis inſidentibus is exceeding common on all the Mountainous Tracts of *Mayo*, *Galloway*, and *Keri*.

On the Mountains of *Keri*, *Sanicula guttata* grows in abundance; together with ſome other rare Plants, as the *Arbutus*. *Cotyledon hirſuta*. *Cirſium humile montanum Cynogloſſi folio polyanthemum* R. *Syn*. *Alchimilla Alpina pentaphyllos*. *Sanicula aizoides inter guttatam & Sedum ſerratum ambigens*. *Veronica procumbens maxima*, *an N. D?* *&c*. But the Tories fruſtrated our Curioſity here, tho' no where elſe in the Kingdom.

Pentaphylloides fruticoſa we found plentifully amongſt Lime-Stone Rocks on the Banks of *Loch Crib* in the County of *Calloway*; and Dr. *Merret*'s *Vaccinia rubra foliis Myrtinis criſpis* (a very beautiful Plant) we found to be no rarity in this Kingdom.

We have preſerved of all theſe, and ſome more I have not time to mention; as alſo of ſuch Marine Plants as had not occur'd in *Wales*.

We met with ſome Marine Animals of the Exanguious kind, that were Strangers to us; and have preſerved by Figures and dried Paterns what we could.—— I am,

Honoured Sir,

Your Obedient humble Servant,

E. LHWYD.

IV. *An*